



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit
of NHTSA's Crash Injury Research and
Engineering Network
Project Number: 03I3003I000

Date: November 7, 2002

From: Theodore P. Alves
Assistant Inspector General for Highway
Infrastructure and Safety Programs

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-30

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator

We are initiating an audit of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN) Program. CIREN uses hospital trauma centers to do research on crashes that result in serious injuries. According to NHTSA, the research focuses on (1) identifying better ways to treat crash-related injuries and (2) identifying automotive design changes that could reduce the number of severity of injuries. The objectives of this audit will be to determine:

1. The extent CIREN data are used to develop crash countermeasures and to achieve measurable reductions in vehicular fatalities, severity of crash-related injuries, and traffic-related economic costs; and
2. Whether the CIREN program is collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data in a timely and cost-effective manner.

We will conduct the audit at NHTSA Headquarters and at selected CIREN centers. We plan to start the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference.

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